

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1161
By Gresham

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Ashley William "Bill"
Fisher III.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the death of Ashley William "Bill" Fisher III; and

WHEREAS, Bill Fisher was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Bill Fisher served with acumen and alacrity with the Treasury Department, where he earned the respect of his peers and superiors alike for the exemplary quality of his work; he also worked as the General Manager for Cotton Carnival; and

WHEREAS, in January of 1942, Bill Fisher, sixteen years old and eager to serve his country, forged military forms so that he could enlist in the Marine Corps; and

WHEREAS, he was sent to San Diego for Boot Camp, which lasted eight weeks, and he then traveled to San Francisco to board the Matson Liner, USS Lurline, which took him to Pearl Harbor; and

WHEREAS, arriving in March 1942, Bill Fisher received his first post, which was to walk guard duty at the USS Arizona; and

WHEREAS, after volunteering for a special unit and getting rejected, Mr. Fisher gained a second interview, this time with Lieutenant Colonel Evans F. Carlson, and he was accepted into the 2nd Raider BN, B Company; and

WHEREAS, Bill Fisher underwent extensive jungle combat and survival training, and in October 1942, he landed on the Solomon Islands; and

WHEREAS, soon after the Solomon Islands mission, the 2nd BN embarked upon the Long Patrol, the longest combat patrol in World War II; and

WHEREAS, after fierce battle in Guadalcanal, Bill Fisher collapsed and awoke several days later to find himself in a hospital bed; he had been bitten by an Anopheles Mosquito and was infected with tertiary malaria; and

WHEREAS, after his dutiful and patriotic military service in World War II, Mr. Fisher was discharged in January 1946; and

WHEREAS, after the war, Bill Fisher attended Loyola University to work on a degree in law; however, after his grandfather died in 1947, he returned home to care for his grandmother; and

WHEREAS, Bill Fisher married Julia Stefano in 1949, and he was recalled to active duty in 1950 to serve in the Korean War; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fisher served bravely in the Korean War, and after his discharge he remained in the Marine Corps Reserves until his retirement in 1980 after thirty-eight years of selfless military service; and

WHEREAS, having served as a private for twenty-three months during World War II, Bill Fisher soon made Corporal after being recalled to active duty in 1950, and he reached Staff Sergeant during service in the Reserves at Millington; and

WHEREAS, nicknamed "Instant Major," Bill Fisher by-passed many lower ranks and received the rank of Major in the field of Public Affairs in 1972; and

WHEREAS, in 1994, Bill Fisher and other WWII soldiers and sailors returned to Normandy, traveling on the USS Normandy; recognized and honored for their bravery and dutiful service, Bill Fisher and others had dinner with Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fisher was a lifetime member of the Marine Corps League, the United States Marine Raider Association, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Disabled American Veterans; he was also a charter member of the Tipton County Veterans Council; and

WHEREAS, a committed community servant, he started a local youth center, raised money for the local museum, and organized special events for Veteran's Day; and

WHEREAS, Bill Fisher was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, the marriage of Bill and Julia Fisher was blessed with ten children, Mary Catherine Wade, Claire Taylor, Frank W. Fisher, Michael Fisher, Ashley W. Fisher IV, Julie Sheriden, Peter C. Fisher, Rachael Shadeed, John R. Fisher, and Robert D. Fisher; and

WHEREAS, following in their father's footsteps, the late Frank W. Fisher, Michael Fisher, Julie Sheriden, Peter Fisher, and the late Robert D. Fisher all served this great Nation as Marines; and

WHEREAS, a devout Christian, Bill Fisher was an active member of the St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, which he served faithfully for many years as a Vestry server; and

WHEREAS, he exemplified the spirit of volunteerism and commitment to excellence that are characteristic of all true Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, Bill Fisher leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Ashley William "Bill" Fisher III, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Fisher.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.